Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------116180 251846Z /42
O 251645Z MAY 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1921
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY AMAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GAOBORONE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 LILONGWE 0784

EXDIS
E.O. 11652 8 XGDS-1
TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV
SUBJECT: CALLS TO SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA

REF: STATE 131791; STATE 131792; STATE 132673

SUMMARY. CHARGE MET SEPARATELY WITH SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA SOR AN HOUR EACH, BOTH OF WHOM EXPRESSEE APPRECIATON FOR US VIEWS. SITHOLE SPOKE OF FACT THAT INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WZHAS COME TO STAY", THAT DOOR IS STILL OPEN TO NKOMO, THAT IDEA OF ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE IS DEAD, AND THAT THE AGAINST USE OF UN FORCES. HE BELIEVES NUHBERS OF REFUGEES AND GUERRILLAS COMING OUT OF MOZAMBIQUE ARE GROWING SIGNIFICANTLY. HE ASKED FOR USG ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES. MUZOREWA CBSPONDED, LESS ELOQUENTLY, IN SAME PEIN. BOTH CALLED ON PRESIDENT BANDA WHO TOLD THEM TO STICK TOGETHER. END SUMMARY.

I CALLED ON REVEREND SITHOLE AND BISHOP MUZOREWA SEPARATELY EARLY EVENING MAY 24 AND PROVIDED POINTS ORALLY PER REF A.

SITHOLE (WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ASSISTANT, A MR. MAFARQBL
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EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE MESSAGE CONVEYEE AND ADDEE THAT NO DOUBT THE EYECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC) WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATIVE OF IT. HE SAIE TTAT THE US IS SHOWING GROWING INTEREST IN RHODESIA'S PROBLEMS. HE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED THE SENTIMENT EXPRESSED RE US-UK COMMITMENT TT NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT (PARA 1A, REF A). HIS OWN FEELING, HE SAID, IS THAT THE US CAN DEMONSTRATE ITS COMMITMENT BY SUPPORTING WHAT THEY (PRESUMABLY THE EC) ARE TRYING TO DO.

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HE STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING TO THE USG:

A. MARCH 3 AGREEMENT IS A REALITY AND HAS COME TT STAY. IT REPRESENTS ASPIRATIONS OF NOT INDIVIDUALS BUT ENTIRE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF RHODESIA AS WELL AS THE GUERRILLAS.

B. EC IS A GOVERNMENT ALREADY, DE FACTO, AND IT IS "INCONSIDERABLE"

THAT IT WOULD UNDO MARCH 3 AGREEMENT. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE EC IS UNWILLING TO ENTR A DIALOGUE WITH THE US, UK, UN, OAU, AND FRONT LINE STATES, BUT "IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT WE ARE A GOVENMENT,

AND THE PEOPLE AND THE GUERRILLAS ACCEPT THAT SACT."

C. AS FOR PARTICIPATION OF ALL PARTIES, THE EC HAD AGREED TO INVITE THE PF TO TALKS BUT WERE TUNED DOWN, YET DOOR IS STILL OPEN. THERE IS NOTHING IN MARCH 3 AGREEMDJT WHICH BARS EC FROM INVITING OTHERS, SPECIFICALLY NKOMO, TO JOIN AT THE EXECUTIVE LEVEL AND, IF HE DID, TO NOMINATE THREE MINISTERS AND EC MEMBERS. HOWEVER, THE EC IS NOT PREPARED FOR HIM TO COME IN ON SPECIAL TERMS; HE MAY COME IN "AS ONE OF US". MUGABE BELONGS TO ZANU AND CAN ALSO JOIN US.

D. IF EI RENEGOTIATEE THE AGREEME T AT A ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE, THIS WOULD UNDERMINE THE GZGOVERNMENT" IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE AND PESENT AN UNSTABLE SITUATION. RATHER, EC INVITES THE OTHERS TO JOIN AND DOES NOT WISH TO REOPEN THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.
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E. AS FAR AS EC IS CONCERNED, THE IDEA OF AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE IS "DEAD". THIS IS EVEN THE VIEW OF THE PEOPLE AS A WHOLE, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD WELCOME NKOMO COMING IN. THE AGREEMENT IS NOT FOR INDIPIDUALS, I.E., SITHOLE, MUZOREWA, NKOMO, AND MUGABE, BUT SOR ALL THE PEOPLE.

F. ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT, HE SAID, IS THE QUESTION OF UN FORCES TO SUPERVISE THE TRANSITION. "FRANKLY, I AM DEAD AGAINST" THAT IEEA FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT ANY SOLUTION RESULTING FROM THE EMPLOYMENT OF UN FORCES WOULD BE HELD TOGETHER TNLY WHILE UN FORCES REMAIN IN RHODESIA.

SITHOLE STATED THAT AT HIS HOME IN SALIS ON EVENING MAY 23, FIVE RHODESIAN SECURITY OFFICIALS AND FIVE ZANLA GUERRILLA LEADERS DISCUSSED HOW THE TWO SIDES CLD COME TOGETHER AND HOW THE TRANS-TIONAL GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, COULD BRING TOGETHER ALL THE GUERRILLAS AND RHODESIAN SECURITY FGJCES TO SOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. THIS IS

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
(ISO) W
----------016121 302150Z /42
O 251645Z MAY 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IACT IMMEEIATE 1922
I FO RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1007
AMEMBASSY LUSAUA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
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S E C R E T SEITION 2 OF 2 LILONGWE 0784

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THE MOST LASTING WAY OF SOLVING THE MILITARY PROBLEM. THE VARIOUS SIDES AGC ALSO MEETING AT LOCAL LEVELS INSIDE RHODESIA. THUS, THE POLITICAL BATTLE HAS BEEN WON AS FAR AS WEARE CONCERNED; IT IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM OF CEASEFIRE BUT THE PEOPLE WANT TO UNOW WHERE THE GUERILLAS WILL FIT IN, HOW THEY WILL GET JOBS AND IN GENEKDAL REINTEGRATE INTO RHODESIAN SOCIEKH. NEVER BEFORE, HE SAID, HAVE BLACK AND WHITE SOLDIERS COME TOGETHER TO HIS HOUSE WISHING TO ASSIST IN THE TRAYHYFION; THUS, NO NEED TO ENTERTAIN IDEA OF UN FORCES. WHEN NKOMO RETUNS, ZIPRA WILL BE TREATED LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.

SITHOLE SAID THAT WITHREFUGEES AND GUERRILLAS NOW RETURNING, PROBLEM OF SUPPLIES FOR THEM IS PRESSING. EFERRING TO THE HUNDRED OR SO REFUGEES NOW IN MALAWI, HE SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK HOME BUT HE HAS NO MONEY TO FLY THEM, OR PROVIDE FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER, BLANKETS OR MEDICAL SUPPLIES. HE WANTED TO UNOW IF THE USG COULD HELP, WHICH WOULD BE ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO GET THE US RECOGNIZED BY ZIMBABWEANS AS LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD. HE ADDED
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THAT THE GUERRILLAS COMING IN SHOULD NOT BE DISAPPOINTED BY A FAILURE

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TO SUPPLY THEM. THUS FAR, OVER 500 HAVE COME IN (HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHERE THEY HAD GONE) SINCE THE AMNESTY WAS ANNOUNCED AND HE BELIEVES THE NUMBER IS GROWING RAPIDLY.

MUZOREWA ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESENTATION. HE THEN OBSERVED THAT ALL ZIMBABWEANS HAVE STRUGGLED AND FOUGHT FOR LIBERATION OF THEIR COUNTRY, FOR MAJORITY RULE, FOR A CHANGE FROM UNJUST SYSTEM. IN DECEMBE SMITH SAID HE WAS READY TO TALK ABOUT INDEPENEENCE. NOT JUST "TALK ABOUT TALKS", AND NATIONALISTS ACCEPTED ONLY ON CONDITION THAT THERE WOULD BE TRANSFER OF POWER FROM MINORITY TO MAJORITY. BUT UNTIL NOW, THE OTHERS HAVE NOT COME IN AND ALLOWED THE NATION TO CHOOSE ITS LEADERS, RATHER THEY CONTINUE THE WAR. IF PEOPLE (READ US AND UK) REALLY MEAN THEY AE NOT SIDING WITH ONE SIDE OR OTHER, WHY DON'T THEY TALK TO THE OTHERS? IN APRIL HE AISED THE PROBLEM WITH SECRETARIES OWEN AND VANCE THAT AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE WOULD NOT ACHIEVE TRUE STABILITY. WHY DOES NKOMO NEED A FACE-SAVING DEVICE? NKOMO AND MUGABE APPEAR TO BE TOGETHER BUT EVERYONE KNOWS THEY SIGHT EACH OTHER FIRST BEFORE THEY FIGHT SMITH; ONLY 2-3 PERCENT OF NKOMO'S FORCES HAVE LONE INTO RHODESIA, THE REST ARE WAITING UNTIL A GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHED IN ORDER TO FIGHT MUGABE.

MUZOREWA SAID WE SHOULD PUT OUR MONEY WHERE THE ACTION IS, NOT SOMEPLACE WHERE LITTLE IS ACCOMPLISHED. "IF YOU ARE ALL INTERESTED

IN THE 'LIBERATION' OF JOSHUA NKOMO, YOU SHOULD SWALLOW YOURPRIDE AND LET THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE DECIDE." THIS IS NOT A THREAT, HE WENT ON, BECAUSE THE YOUTH ARE NOW MAKING A LARGE OUTCRY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CUBANS COMING IN (HE DID NOT MENTION SOJCE OF THAT STATEMENT). YOUTH NOW CLAMORING TO BE SENT TO WHERE THEY CAN

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GET THE BEST TRAINING TO FIGHT, ISAEL OR SOMEPLACE ELSE.

MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE MET JOINTLY WITH PRESIDENT BANDA MORNING MAY 25. SITHILE INVITED ME BACK FOLLOWING MEETING WITH BANDA. HE SAID IT WAS BRIEF MEETING AND HE GAVE BANDA'S IMPRESSIONS FOLLOWING LATTER'S VISIT TO US AND UK. BANDA TOLD THEM THAT US AND UK (A) ARE NOT INTERESTED IN MARCH 3 AGREEMENT, (B) CONSIDER SMITH TO BE ON WAY OUT, AND (C) CONSIDER CHIRAU AN UNKNOWN AND THEREFORE OFKO CONSEQUENCE. BANDA UVE SITHOLE AND MUZORLA ADVICE THAT THEY MUST SETTLE DIFFERENCES AND WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER, THEREBY ENSURING THEIR CONTROL OVER RHODESIA'S EVENTUAL POLITICAL FUTURE. BANDA TOLD THEM THAT THEY MUST ENSURE THAT THE MARCH 3 AGREEMENT (A) REMAINS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE, (B) IS WORKING PROPERLY, AND (C) ATTAINS THE OBJECTIVES DESIRED.

SITHOLE DEPARTED MAY 25 FOR JOHANNESBURG AND THEN LONDON.

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COMMENT: BOTHINDIVIDUALS APPEARED SELF-CONFIDENT, PARTICULARLY IN THEIR VIEWS ON AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE AND ON ON HOW NKOMO SHOULD JOIN THEM. THEY APPEARED EAGER TO RECEIVE ME.
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